

CLYDE T. ECKER, Editor.

It is proposed to levy a tax of 80 percent on war profits. Why not take the other twenty percent also.

While its a long ways to the Rhine from the Marne, still its all right for the boys to consider the Rhine as the best place to celebrate next July Fourth.

Hun submarine crews are going into neutral ports and tying up for the duration of the war. This is one portion of the enemy's military machine that knows when its licked, and these deserters are banking on there being a new boss in Germany when they get home.

The freshly elected chairman of the Oregon Republican state committee says that Governor Withycombe and the present congressional delegation should be re-elected alleging that there should be no swapping horses in the middle of the stream. Much as we'd like to follow the leader, there's a pair of them we'd swap off at any time and take chances on what we got in the trade.

JOE CLARK

(R. B. Swenson in Monmouth Herald.)

It was one of the anomalies of fate that Joe Clark should have met the death of a soldier. One of the most peacefully inclined of men, one who shrank instinctively from the sight of blood, yet voluntarily he offered his scruples and his inclination on the altar of patriotic effort. He was typical of the sacrifice which is steadily and surely stopping the course of the German juggernaut. The nations opposed to Germany are not warlike. They wanted but to be left in peace. But Germany would not leave them n peace. She had acquired the idea that she was called by deity to enforce her superiority upon the world; to push out the sluggards and the weaklings and to substitute for them the superior German. She felt that she was called on to regenerate the world and to make the world pay for the process. But while the neighbor nations were peaceful they would fight before they would lose their liberties. So with the peaceful Joe. Probably the last thing he coveted was military glory. Yet when the necessity arose he turned about face readily. He did not wait to be drafted. He volunteered. Volunteered among the first. The whole process of preparation was irksome to him. He liked his freedom, to do as he pleased. But this, too, he submitted to the greater cause, working on until he could do his bit for the world. Here is something to think about. When war conditions pinch; when the call for donations or loans become insistant, remember what one lone printer has done. You may not want to discommode yourself, to put up with inconvenience, to sacrifice; neither did Joe. But he did it. That is the point. He gave in a manner to put the ordinary "bit" to shame. Thousands of others are doing it that posterity may enjoy peace. By the side of their sacrifices we may pause with reverent and grateful emotion. "Better love hath no one than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

A CODE LETTER

(From the Detroit News.)  
Somewhere in the U. S. A., July 1918.

Hass N. Pfeffer,  
Berlin, Germany.

Friend Hass: I have had a talk with the physician about Hilda's illness and he says there is danger that GERM infection may get beyond control and that we should not be ANY to confident of the result. The case IS not yet at the most critical stage, but that will be reached in DUE time, he assures us. It is FOR him to say when that period is at hand. I am glad for ONE thing, and that is the rugged health Hilda had enjoyed before her illness. You will remember that she was a WHALE at tennis, swimming and fencing. All OF these sports have helped her to build up A constitution that now is standing her in good stead. She is on a restricted diet; simple food only, with no TRIMMING. Will try to keep you informed as to the progress of her case.

FRITZ HUN-SPY.

JELLY, JUICES AND JAM

ENTITLED TO A SERVICE FLAG  
(Acheson Globe.)

An Acheson man has figured in so many church rows that his wife has put a service flag in the window.

THIS OLD FASHIONED WOMAN SNORTS  
(Wamego, Kan., Times.)

It makes the old fashioned woman snort when she reads of physicians operating on boys' heads to make better boys of them. There was a time when she operated on her boys for this same purpose, but she didn't use a knife, and the portion of the anatomy she operated on was further south than the head.

SOLDIERS OF DEATH REFUSE TO  
LET THE ENEMY TAKE THEIR DEAD

Each Slav With the Italian Army Has Sworn to Carry Off to the Italian Lines the Body of a Compatriot Killed in Action—As Subjects of Austrian Emperor Death Is Only Thing in Store for Those Captured.

(Special Correspondence of Italian American News Bureau.)

The Slav soldiers in the Italian army elect their own superiors by the most rigid tests, and thus are representative of the manhood of their nationalities. The Italian soldiery and people have taken kindly to them.

The first of the proofs of valor they gave are admirable, although limited to modest operations in exploring and raiding. Whether by themselves or with Italian troops these Czecho-Slovaks, arriving from beyond the ocean, have kept up the fire of patriotism and the ardor to fight, and have fought well.

Austria has under arms about 5,000,000 men, of whom there must be 2,000,000 on the firing line. Among them the oppressed races, Bohemians, Poles, Slovaks form the majority. The agitation among these men aiming at liberty, independence or at least to withdraw from German or Magyar domination has attained threatening forms, and only extreme concessions of equal rights will condone the savage iniquities of the empire.

The Czecho-Slovak officers at the front, who bring a heroism to manifestations of their country an outsider does not perceive, say that even more violent agitation will not attain the desired revolution or an overthrow of the empire, because there is not the fundamental setting for a successful revolt.

People Are Held Down.

In the country and in the villages the gendarmes assist and the muselman agents of the schultz corps have absolute power over the few inhabitants exempted from war service. In the big cities the rifles and machine guns entrusted to the soldiers of opposing races can be turned on revolutionists easily, as happened recently in Prague, where troubles were put down pitilessly by the most ferocious enemies of the Czech, the Hungarians.

However, the same steadfast purpose can be far more troublesome when found in the enemy camp where Czechs and Slovaks are present on the Italian front.

The Austrian commanders are doubtless masters of the political composition of their own effectives. The numerous "Politisch unverlesene," political undesirables, are registered on the army records, identification cards are scattered among the loyal troops and always subject to vigilant surveillance.

For a long time no delicate task has been entrusted to them, but the pact of Rome automatically suppressed the reasons for existing disputes with the Slav races in the empire. It has also brought really a large number of "political suspects" over to the Italian camp.

The Austrian military authorities, after the pact of Rome, meditated new restrictions and regulations to keep their troops from the contagion of contact with Czecho-Slovaks in the Italian first lines. They rigorously suppressed every sign of unrest; they drew off from their battle lines all recruits of Bohemian, Slovak or Czech nationality, but they soon stopped shifting about and resorted to severe punishments and shooting.

However, all this could not bring anything but endless anxiety to the Austrian commanders. All went to undermine the morale of the army, and alienated more and more soldiers from the unredeemed parts of Italy (Italia Irredenta), especially when they have a brother or a friend fighting under the Italian flag.

Swear Never to Be Taken.

The repatriates of the Czecho-Slovak army have been saluted already with brotherly love by the population in the zone of war, especially by the ancient inhabitants of the Veneto, who have the most recent and liveliest recollection of oppression and the convulsive struggle for redemption.

The women of Verona offered them a battle flag in the Bohemian colors, surmounted by a lion. The soldiers recognized the sanctity of the gift and swore an oath that they would die for that emblem of liberty. The expression was not rhetorical and the oath superfluous.

The fate that awaits these new warriors for the ideals of a far-off and oppressed country is shown by the inflexible military rules of the Austrian empire. They are all subjects of the Emperor Carl, and as such death is the only thing in store for them if captured.

Their word is for that reason sacred. Neither alive nor dead must they fall into the hands of the enemy. Even the dead must be snatched from the oppressor. Each one has sworn to carry off to the Italian lines the body of a compatriot killed in action.

In the last days, during a reconnaissance, a Bohemian fell close to the enemy lines. Braving a hot fire, the explorers hurried to carry him off, fearing that in a night sortie the Austrians might get the body.

These "soldiers of death" know that if an operation fails of success they must kill themselves. To the ignominious death inflicted by the enemy they prefer suicide. Whether through

death by the enemy or through their own hands, they have consecrated their lives to the distant fatherland, from which they have come to fight in the greatest cradle of all liberty and all ideals—Italy.

Eliminate Weak and Unfit.

Rome, the ancient lighthouse of civility and of liberty, has substituted these new companions in arms for those of Russia. These warriors for the freedom of their country have found in the ranks of our own combatants fraternity and sturdy faith. This fraternity, more than common ideals for the redemption of their respective countries, is cemented by the knowledge and vision of the real difficulties and the resolution and firmness of purpose of the new combatants. From their own ranks on a spontaneous vote they have eliminated all about whose military vigor or enthusiasm there could be any doubt, so that the recruits represent the flower of the soldiery of the oppressed nationalities. Drawn from the same country, speaking the same tongue, in the daily intimacy of their new military life, they have subjected each other to voluntary but inflexible tests. The results are confined only to their officers.

"Titus does not please me. He would not make a good corporal. We do not want him," they say. Thus, out of the ancient military system of Austria spring elements of criticism which exclude the weak and unfit. The officers must heed these verdicts, which, like all collective judgments, arise from a full consensus of the judges.

The examination of the political opinion is not less exacting for being carried out by fellow soldiers. A Czech recruit who spoke his mother tongue well was challenged by his compatriots. "He speaks our language well, but his heart is not Czech," they said. It was learned that during protracted business transactions in Vienna he had lost the fierceness and intrepidity of the Bohemian character through daily contact with the Austrian authorities.

Elect Own Officers.

This control has been fraught with excellent results. Those who have survived the tests of the assembled judges have furnished the best war material and proved themselves dependable in military and moral affairs.

The officers are also elected by the soldiers, who trust their leaders with blind faith, and give them the most rigid obedience and discipline. Such discipline the new soldiers of liberty are taught by their remembrance of imperial oppression to hold essential to the triumph of their cause.

HORSE IS APT LINGUIST

Quick to Respond to Either French or American Command.

The American horse is an apt linguist.

Sold overseas to the French from America during the first three years of the war, he had to learn French to understand his new masters. Then sold back to Americans for service with his own army after the United States entered the war, he had to learn English, or rather American, all over again.

Hundreds of these American horses were bought from the French when the first forces from the United States landed. The drivers were constantly in trouble, and at first couldn't understand the reason.

"I had a team out during a review," said one driver, "and couldn't make 'em budge. I yelled, 'git-up' and everything else at 'em, and they just sort of looked around like they thought I was foolish. Then I remembered that I heard a frog yell 'alley' at his horses, I yelled 'alley,' and away we went."

The horses now are a good deal like the soldier. They'll respond to either French or English commands.

CONSCIENCE HURTS; ENLISTS

Youth Under Age Fears War May End Before He Is Twenty-One.

Harvey Greer, nineteen, a native of Tennessee, is the kind of conscientious objector that the country is proud of. "I want to enlist," he told Sergeant H. B. Mergenthal of the United States marine corps recruiting station at Stockton, Cal.

"You're mighty young," replied Mergenthal. "Why do you want to enlist?" "Because my conscience hurts me," replied young Greer. "I'm afraid the war may be over before I am twenty-one. Then the boys will come home and ask me why I hadn't been in it, and I object conscientiously to having no excuse to offer."

Greer's name was soon affixed to the dotted line.

PROVES HER PATRIOTISM

Soldier's Wife Cares for Children and Runs Farm.

Mrs. Wilbur Hooper of Bellaire, Kan., wife of a soldier, has two small children to look after and a small farm. Despite the care of the children she has planted 25 acres of corn, cares for 25 head of cattle and milks eight cows. She has bought a \$50 Liberty bond and given \$40 to the Red Cross.

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KEEPING THE PEACE

(From the Portland Journal.)

Theodore Roosevelt has published an editorial in some of the afternoon papers in which he advocates the immediate adoption of universal military training. He says it is necessary for the national defense. Evidently Mr. Roosevelt stakes his hopes on brute force to keep the peace and not on any federalized league of nations.

Should he run for president in 1920 we may expect it to on a thoroughgoing militarist platform. So the country may have its choice in that campaign between the principle of brute force and the principle of intelligence. For it is fairly certain that the candidate who opposes Mr. Roosevelt in 1920 will stand for the dominance of mind over matter, just as Mr. Roosevelt, if he runs, will stand for the dominance of matter over mind.

Shall we use our brains to keep the world at peace when this war is over, or shall we depend on our muscles alone? That seems likely to be the issue. Pres. Wilson does not favor the adoption of universal military training as yet. Secretary Baker says we should wait and see how the war turns out. If the Germans defeat us we shall be obliged to train all our young men as fighters for the sake of maintaining our national existence. But if we defeat the Germans and then conclude an intelligent peace there will be no such necessity.

The Roosevelt school in our national politics looks upon militarism as an ideal to be adored and perpetuated. Their opponents look upon it as a terrible necessity. As long as we must fight let us do it with all our might, but when we no longer need to fight let us not keep on worshipping the god of slaughter. That is the teaching of those who do not follow the Roosevelt leadership.

Taking everything into consideration the chances seem bright for a sort of Armageddon struggle in the United States between militarism and democracy. The forces are already arraying themselves and the trumpet is sounding its preliminary blasts. People should make no mistake about the issue. Militarism and democracy are not compatible with one another. As Lincoln said of slavery and freedom, if one survives the other must perish. This is true of the United States and the whole world. We are supposed to be fighting just now to extirpate militarism from the world. It seems odd that while we are doing so, a militarist party should show its head and gain menacing prestige among us.

The uprising of a free nation to defend its freedom is not militarism. The determination of a free people to extirpate autocracy from the world is not militarism. We have armed our young men for the clear aim of freeing future generations from the need of arming. We assume for the moment the panoply of war in order to slay the war god. But the Roosevelt school of politicians tell us that having assumed the panoply we must wear it forever. It is the most impudently unAmerican doctrine ever injected into our politics.

We need not go into the fray between militarism and democracy blindly. History teems with instruction upon the issue. We may know exactly what militarism is, what it does to the institutions of a free people and how it keeps the peace. All the ancient nations had universal military training for everybody except their slaves. The slaves were kept busy feeding the soldiers. Feudal Europe had universal military training. It was all the training anybody got, except a few prelates who learned to read and write.

The American Indians when the first whites discovered  
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